

To: The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and The White Pond Advisory Committee

From: Chris Leary, The White Pond Advisory Committee Member

Date: July 7, 2014

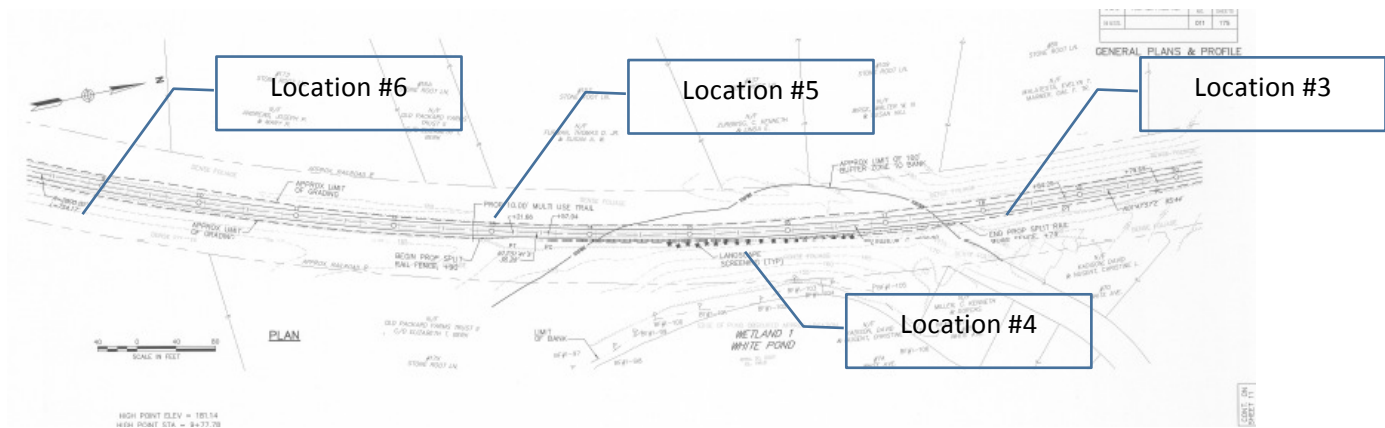
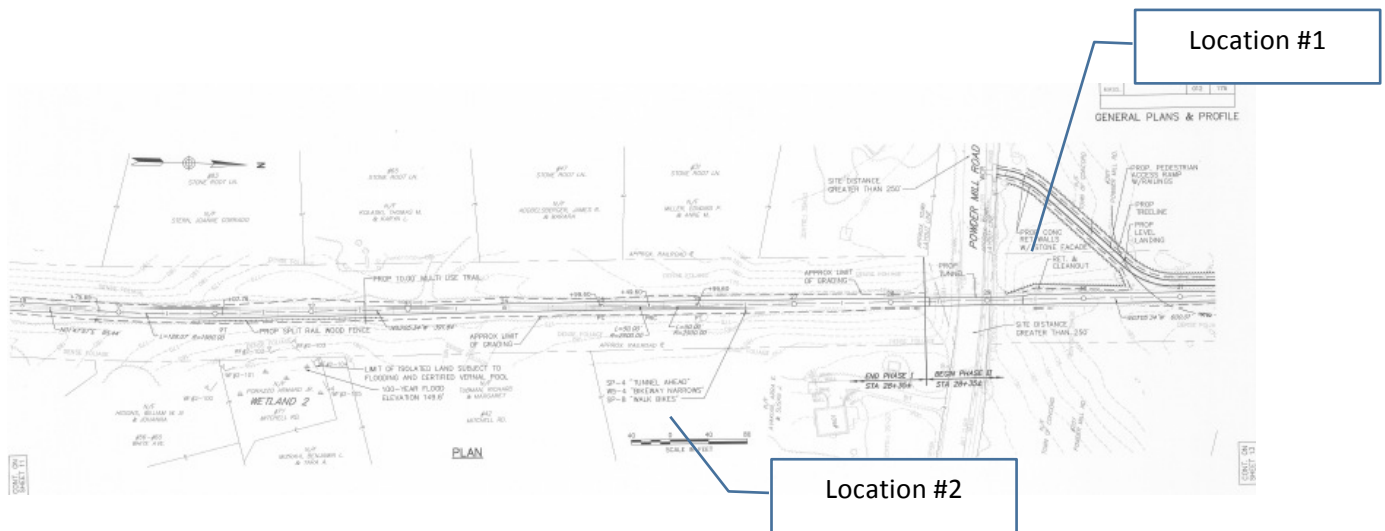
On Saturday April 12, 2014, Alan Whitney of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and Chris Leary of the White Pond Advisory Committee, at the request and cooperation of both committees, walked the current rail bed that is the intended future path of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from Powder Mill Road to the Sudbury Town Line. The purpose of this walk was to observe the current existing conditions along the proposed Trail first hand, and to then offer specific recommendations for locations for educational signage that would inform trail users and hopefully discourage undesirable behaviors (i.e. leaving the trail at a vulnerable location) that would further degrade the fragile ecosystem surrounding White Pond. The content of the signs was only discussed in general terms, and it is assumed that others will develop the specific content with the continued input of both committees.

Six sign locations were recommended:

1. Powder Mill Road culvert
2. Vernal Pool between Powder Mill Road and White Pond
3. North end of the proposed Fence separating the Trail and west bank of White Pond
4. Middle of the proposed Fence separating the Trail and west bank of White Pond
5. South end of the proposed Fence separating the Trail and west bank of White Pond
6. Trail network entrance between the south end of White Pond and the Sudbury Town Line

The intent of each sign location:

1. Powder Mill Road culvert – In the event that the Trail temporarily terminates at Powder Mill Road, and especially if the Powder Mill Road culvert is constructed, then signage at this location is critical to discourage trail users from continuing into the fragile (and unprotected until the trail improvement continue to the Sudbury Town Line) White Pond area.
2. Vernal Pool between Powder Mill Road and White Pond – the signage can provide educational material on the ecological value of a vernal pool.
3. North end of the proposed fence separating the Trail and west bank of White Pond – the signage can explain the history of the Pond, the ecology of the pond and the watershed, and explain how trail users can minimize their detrimental impact by staying on the trail, especially in this fragile area of steep Pond bank. These signs must also discourage illegal swimming. This sign location was chosen because the ends of the fence are the most tempting locations to bypass the fence.
4. Middle of the proposed Fence separating the Trail and west bank of White Pond – similar to sign #3, but this sign was located mid-fence where trail users are likely to stop and take in the most dramatic view of the Pond.
5. South end of the proposed Fence separating the Trail and west bank of White Pond – similar to sign #3, but targeting trail users from the other direction.
6. Trail network entrance between the south end of White Pond and the Sudbury Town Line – the signage can entice trail users to enter the trail network at this location, and this location only, where trail users can hike closer to White Pond while minimizing the impact of their use.





Recommended Location #2



Recommended Location #3



Recommended Location #4



The Pond bank below recommended Location #4 – demonstrating the existing damage to the bank



Recommended Location #5



Recommended Location #6